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NEWSBYTES

12 outstanding airmen

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force has selected the service's top enlisted members, naming the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2000.

The top airmen are: Senior Master Sgts. Tim C. Bosch, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, Cathryn L. Casto, Moody AFB, Ga., and Daniel F. Cooler, Fort George Meade, Md.;

Master Sgts. Rocky D. Dunlap, McChord AFB, Wash., and Paul S. N. Sanchez, Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency;

Tech. Sgt. Matthew M. Marshall, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany;

Staff Sgts. Susan A. Robinson, Kelly AFB, Texas, Tammy M. Stiles, Travis AFB, Calif., and Jasmin D. Wiltshire, Patrick AFB, Fla.;

Senior Airmen John M. Jordan, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom, Michael M. Solyom, Goodfellow AFB, Texas, and Cyril R. Charity Sr., Andrews AFB, Md.

Luke F-16 crashes

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFPN) – A Luke F-16 Fighting Falcon crashed June 16 during a combat training mission.

The pilot, 1st Lt. Doyle Pompa, ejected from the aircraft safely and was not injured.

The lieutenant is a student pilot assigned to the 309th Fighter Squadron. He was conducting an air-to-air combat training mission in the military operations area east of the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

A board of Air Force officers will investigate the incident.

Air Force Vision helps airmen meet 21st century challenges

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON – Senior Air Force leaders unveiled the service's updated vision – America's Air Force: Global Vigilance, Reach and Power – June 19, at the Pentagon.

"We want to provide our people with a clear vision of the purpose and value of their dedicated service," said Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff. "America's Air Force concisely provides that perspective. It gives airmen a guide to meet the diverse challenges they will face in the 21st century. Achieving our vision will involve the valuable contributions of all (Air Force) people."

According to General Ryan, one example
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The Air Force's updated vision — America's Air Force: Global Vigilance, Reach and Power — gives airmen a guide with which to meet the diverse challenges of the 21st century. (U.S. Air Force photo)

AF observes Family Day July 3

WASHINGTON – The Air Force will go to minimum manning as its people observe Family Day July 3. Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, directed the observance.

"In recognition of the high (operations tempo) by Air Force people around the world, we will observe a family day July 3," the chief of staff said in a message sent to commanders in the field June 16.

The Air Force will go to minimum manning at all duty locations commensurate with security and military operations in forward theaters, the message states.

"All commanders will ensure they have minimum manning on Monday, July 3," General Ryan said in the message. "The intent of this action is to give our people personal time away from their duty stations to spend with their families and friends."

"Commanders will arrange a suitable alternative family day for those who must work on July 3," the general added.

The message further states that commanders should follow all pass and leave guidance and are encouraged to allow liberal leave for civilian employees, in accordance with applicable civilian leave instructions.

"Our total force team has done a magnificent job of meeting a variety of taskings throughout the past year. You have much to be proud of as we celebrate the independence of our nation," General Ryan noted in the message.

"Freedom is not free – it is made possible by the sacrifices of those who have served and continue to serve the United States of America," he said.

"You have earned the gratitude and respect of your fellow Americans."



America's Air Force: Global Vigilance, Reach & Power

By F. Whitten Peters
secretary of the Air Force
and Gen. Michael E. Ryan
Air Force chief of staff

This week, we released America's Air Force: Global Vigilance, Reach & Power, to update our vision for the 21st century. It captures where we're going as a service and helps Air Force people plan for the diverse challenges we'll face in the 21st century.

This document builds upon and extends ideas in our previous visions and reflects organizational and conceptual improvements since the publication of our last vision. It also supports the principles laid out in the recently released Joint Vision 2020.

Airmen from across the Air Force contribute to our ability to deploy and sustain powerful aerospace capabilities wherever and whenever necessary. While there is much in the vision that is new, the foundation remains the same — our people and our values. The vision makes clear that we will continue to rely on our great Air Force people to be the engines of change and integration and progress. We'll

rely on all our people — active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian — leveraging the strengths of the total force.

The document is short and concise. It does not talk about specific weapon systems or about the details of defense budgets. Instead, it represents our thinking about the aerospace domain and our role in it — how we'll exploit the full aerospace continuum to meet the nation's needs. The art of commanding aerospace power lies in integrating air, space and information systems to produce the exact effects the nation needs. We'll continue broadening Air Force leaders to capitalize on the range of potent capabilities aerospace power offers.

Global Vigilance, Reach and Power are the overarching aerospace capabilities described in our vision: vigilance to anticipate and deter threats, reach to curb crises and power to prevail in conflicts and win wars. We will realize the true potential of full-spectrum aerospace power by thinking of vigilance, reach and power not as separate and distinct, but as capabilities that, when fully integrated, add up to much

more than the sum of their parts.

Key to our concept is the expeditionary aerospace force, which will provide both increased capabilities to meet the nation's security requirements and greater predictability and stability for our people. Operation Allied Force proved the potential of our developing concepts. Impressive as the improvements seen recently have been, they're just the beginning. Aerospace power is America's asymmetric advantage and we're determined to ensure America keeps that advantage.

Our vision focuses on what we will do as America's airmen, but it includes a firm commitment to work effectively within the joint team, ensuring that we never forget the trust the American people place in us.

Realizing the potential of our vision will take the dedicated efforts and teamwork of all of you in the years to come. There'll be copies of the vision in the field soon. Meanwhile, you can find it on the web at www.af.mil/vision. We encourage you to read it, talk about it and understand it. It's your future, and it's brighter than ever.

Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

Current AF uniform rates

In response to Cadet David Bolls' June 14 letter regarding the Air Force uniform, I would like to state that during the early 1990s, the Air Force uniform underwent several changes resulting in the unique, distinctive, and highly professional uniform we now wear. From the slit pocket to the Hap Arnold buttons our uniform is 100 percent appropriate for our service. If the decision to serve their country is based on the opportunity to wear a "flashy" white dress uniform, I suggest Cadet Bolls point those many young people in the direction of the nearest Navy recruiter.

Master Sgt. Dennis Rogers
Ft. Meade, Maryland

Are there double standards

Is there a double standard in the awarding of awards and decorations? According to the European Stars & Stripes, the Air Force awarded the Bronze Star Medal to members who took part in the Kosovo Campaign. Some of the people who received this formerly prestigious combat decoration never even left the United States! I do

not doubt the fact that the recipients deserved to be recognized for their efforts, but how can we reward people who were not in the AOE with combat decorations while denying the Kosovo Campaign Medal to those who directly supported the campaign but were not in the AOE? ... it is time to rethink the eligibility requirements for campaign medals and allow those who directly supported the Kosovo operation to wear the KCM. In the meantime, under the current guidelines now in place, it is my humble opinion that if you don't rate the KCM, you don't rate the Bronze Star.

Shawn E. Witten
Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala.

(Editor's note: While often equated with acts of valor and heroism, the Bronze Star Medal is also awarded for meritorious service. Using established guidelines and criteria, the Bronze Star Medal was approved for 246 airmen for their efforts during operations in Kosovo. There were 131 approved for airmen in the area of hostilities and 115 awarded to airmen who played a pivotal role in the campaign while outside the area of hostilities.)



Airman earns congressional award for self, community improvement

By Senior Airman Ryan Steinbach
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. — An airman from the 393rd Bomb Squadron made history June 6 when he became the first person in the Air Force to accept an award for participating in the Congressional Award Program.

Senior Airman Marty Skipper, a 21-year-old Loris, S.C., native, received the award for completing thousands of volunteer hours toward self and community improvement.

The CAP is an individual, noncompetitive activity open to people ages 14 to 24 which focuses on volunteer work, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition or exploration.

The program offers young adults an opportunity to set self-improvement goals, to challenge themselves, and to receive recognition for their achievements.

"The award focuses on the whole person and what that person does to make their community a better place," Airman Skipper said. "It's a wonderful program that is self-paced and allows me to know I'm helping people in my community, building skills, and taking care of myself in a commendable way."

As a self-described achiever, Airman Skipper said he didn't need a lot of motivation to get started; he was ready to go from the



Senior Airman Marty Skipper is the first Air Force person to complete the Congressional Award Program. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ryan Steinbach)

minute he read about the program in 1998.

He faced his first challenge in completing requirements for the CAP Silver Award through his volunteer work as the baseball commissioner for the Whiteman youth center. He also volunteered to be a troop leader for a local Boy Scout troop.

This article is available in its entirety online.

Major League Baseball honors Korean War heroes

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Korean War Commemoration Committee

WASHINGTON — Baseball teamed up with the military to honor Korean War veterans with a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, June 14.

Major league baseball commissioner, Allan "Bud" Selig, and Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, placed the wreath in front of the Tomb of the Unknowns in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. The event is a prelude to the official opening ceremony on June 25 at the Korean War Veterans Memorial here. After the wreath laying, Selig thanked those who fought to stop communist aggression.

"It is a profound honor to be at this hallowed resting place to so many American heroes, including baseball's own Abner Doubleday," Selig said. "On behalf of major league baseball, I greatly appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to and remember the service of more than 1.7 million Americans who put themselves in harm's way during the Korean War."

This article is available in its entirety online.

Air Force Vision helps airmen meet 21st century challenges

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of these contributions can be found in the expeditionary aerospace force concept that depends on more than just the air expeditionary forces that deploy forward.

"Airmen from all across the Air Force contribute to our ability to deploy and sustain powerful aerospace capabilities," he said. "Air expeditionary forces are an important part of that but so are the capabilities — ranging from the mobility to get them where they need to go to the acquisition, logistics, healthcare, education and training — they depend on. It really is a team effort."

"Our experiences over the last several years have shown it doesn't matter if an asset is located in air or space or if it's manned or unmanned," said Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters. What does matter is, "We are an integrated aerospace force that uses

whatever assets are available, regardless of their location, to best accomplish the mission."

Taking this experience and combining it with what needs to be accomplished in the future enables the Air Force to chart a course continuing its evolution to remain the premiere expeditionary aerospace force of today and tomorrow, according to Secretary Peters.

This updated vision builds upon and extends the foundations laid by past visions to reflect conceptual and organizational improvements, General Ryan said. "It provides a broad outline enabling the Air Force to shape its strategic planning for the future."

"The most important part of this vision is the people," Secretary Peters said. "We need to develop aerospace leaders who can take command of forces that fly in the air,

unmanned assets, space assets and information assets, which is going to be one of the most important things we do over the next two decades"

Future planning and the Air Force's ongoing integration of air, space and information operations, requires leaders who have a good understanding of what all Air Force systems can do and how one can use them together to create a desired effect, he said.

"We will continue developing (airmen) who really understand and have experience with the full range of Air Force capabilities," General Ryan said. "They will be able to capitalize on the most effective aspects of air and space seamlessly to lead aerospace and joint forces to victory."

The new vision, America's Air Force: Global Vigilance, Reach and Power, is available at <http://www.af.mil/vision>.



Airman's injury doesn't hamper desire to serve

By Karen Edge

San Antonio Air Logistics Center

KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFMNCNS) – With the “What’s in it for me?” attitude second nature to many nowadays, it wouldn’t be unexpected for Airman 1st Class Brian Coles to cut his losses and walk away ... on his one leg.

Instead, Airman Coles is fighting for permission to stay in the Air Force and fulfill what he calls his destiny.

Working in the 76th Communications Squadron, Airman Coles was involved in an industrial accident Jan. 21 that resulted in his right leg being amputated below the knee. Now he’s waiting to find out if he’ll lose his career as well.

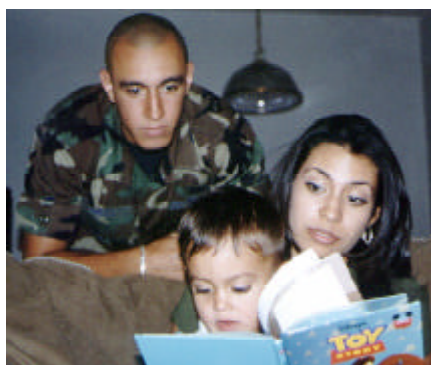
Airman Coles, 21, has been around the Air Force his entire life. His father is retired Air Force, and both brothers are active-duty Air Force. It’s all he knows and, according to him, all he wants.

“The Air Force has always been my future,” Airman Coles said. “I’ve known since I was a little boy that I would one day wear a uniform like my dad’s. It’s everything to me, and I’ll do anything to continue wearing it.”

That desire to wear America’s blue suit is evident in everything about Airman Coles, especially his personal appearance. In fact, his co-workers nicknamed him “Pretty Boy Jenkins.”

“Everyone here has a nickname — it’s always ‘Something’ Jenkins. We called Brian ‘Pretty Boy’ because his boots were always shiny and his uniforms always looked good,” fellow worker Senior Airman Brian Talbot said. “He holds himself to a higher standard.”

“Now we’re going to name him Flamingo,



Airman 1st Class Brian Coles looks on as Desiree, his wife, reads a story to their two-year-old son Xavier. (U.S. Air Force photo by Karen Edge)

because they’re pretty birds, graceful, and usually stand on one leg.”

Assuming he’ll be allowed to continue serving his country, Airman Coles began the physical therapy necessary to get back to life as “normal” as possible. He works out at least four times a week at a gym where he does the exercises and weight lifting his doctor prescribed.

“Everything happens for a reason, and I think God used this to open my eyes to what is really important in life,” Airman Coles said, matter-of-factly. “The accident brought me and my wife closer together. It was like God showed us how much we do need each other and that we’re meant to be.”

His wife, Desiree, and their son, Xavier, are his biggest fans. Desiree is always lending words of encouragement and the strength her husband needs to keep going. And Xavier has been there to cheer him on while he learns to walk again with a new leg.

This article is available in its entirety online.

Senate passes defense bill

WASHINGTON – The Senate passed its Fiscal 2001 National Defense Appropriations Bill June 13. The bill funds a 3.7 percent pay raise and other quality of life initiatives.

The bill passed 95-3 and allots \$287.4 billion in spending authority. This is \$3.1 billion above the president’s budget request and \$1.1 billion below the House’s version. The House passed its FY01 defense appropriations bill last month.

“This bill meets all personnel, readiness, training and quality of life priorities for the armed services, said Sen. Ted Stevens, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. “We have fully funded the pay raise and new authorized recruiting and retention benefits.

“All estimated costs of contingency operations for 2001 in Kosovo, Bosnia and Southwest Asia are included in the bill,” he added.

Highlights of the Senate bill include:

- a total of \$160 million to enhance basic allowance for housing and reduce servicemembers’ out-of-pocket housing expenses;

- an increase of \$4.5 billions over current fiscal year spending to fund readiness, training and depot support programs;

- funds totaling \$2.18 billion for 12 C-17 aircraft;

- funds to procure 10 F-22 Raptors;

- an additional \$183 million to buy six F-16 Fighting Falcons;

- funds to advance procurement for one JSTARS aircraft;

- an additional \$137 million for the retirees’ pharmacy benefit;

- \$150 million for National Guard and Reserve equipment; and

- an additional \$35.4 million for Air Guard operations and maintenance programs

The House and Senate will next meet in a joint committee to resolve differences in their defense appropriations bills.



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